

Name _____ Date _____

Holes
by Louis Sachar
Chapters 1-5
Reading Comprehension

1. What happened to Green Lake?
2. Who owns the shade at Camp Green Lake?
3. What happens if you are bitten by a yellow-spotted lizard?
4. Why do boys go to Camp Green Lake?
5. What options does the judge give Stanley?
6. Where does Stanley pretend he is going?
7. How did his math teacher embarrass him?
8. Who does Stanley's family blame for their problems?
9. What is unusual about Stanley Yelnats' name?
10. Why does Mr. Sir eat a sack of sunflowers seeds every week?
11. What supplies does Mr. Sir give Stanley?
12. Why doesn't Camp Green Lake need fences or guards?
13. Whose sleeping bag does Stanley use, and why doesn't he need it anymore?
14. What do the other boys call Mr. Pendanski?
15. Why doesn't Mr. Pendanski use nicknames?

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Chapters 1-5
Vocabulary

wasteland _____

shrivel _____

stifling _____

convicted _____

descendant _____

vast _____

melody _____

perseverance _____

barren _____

desolate _____

juvenile _____

burlap _____

wearily _____

sanitary _____

Writing

1. If you were in Stanley's position, would you have chosen Camp Green Lake? Why or why not?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages to having the desert as the only security at Camp Green Lake?
3. Mr. Pendanski prefers real names. Stanley thinks that the other boys' nicknames might be a sign of respect. Why do you think the boys use nicknames like Barf Bag and Armpit?

Holes
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Chapters 6-10
Reading Comprehension

1. Why was Stanley sent to Camp Green Lake?
2. What was special about the shoes?
3. How did they come to be in Stanley's hands?
4. What do the boys have to do to get time off from shoveling?
5. How does Madame Zeroni tell Elya to care for the piglet?
6. What must he promise to do in exchange for the piglet?
7. What does Elya do when Myra asks him to pick a number?
8. How does Elya become cursed?
9. What does each boy do as he finishes digging his hole?
10. How many spots does each yellow-spotted lizard have?
11. What does the surface of the pool table resemble?
12. How does Stanley almost get into a fight?
13. What does Stanley tell his mother about camp?
14. Who is the Caveman?
15. What does Stanley find in the rock?

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Chapters 6-10
Vocabulary

scarcity _____

testify _____

torment _____

retrieve _____

prospect _____

destiny _____

despicable _____

defective _____

pried _____

eternity _____

preposterous _____

expanse _____

clod _____

grimace _____

Writing

1. Do you think that Stanley's nick name suits him? What other nicknames could he be given?
2. Madame Zeroni thought Elya should forget Myra and go to America. Why do you think she helped him?
3. Mr. Pendanski doesn't think the fossil is interesting enough for the Warden. What do you think the Warden might be interested in finding?

Holes
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Chapters 11-16
Reading Comprehension

1. Why does X-Ray ask Stanley for a favor?
2. Where did X-Ray's nickname come from?
3. Why does Stanley agree to help X-Ray?
4. What does Mr. Pendanski want the boys to start thinking about?
5. Who does Mr. Pendanski say is responsible for Stanley being at Camp Green Lake?
6. Which hole does Stanley decide is the hardest?
7. What does Stanley find while digging?
8. What does Stanley suggest to X-Ray?
9. How does X-Ray treat Stanley the next morning?
10. What do the Warden and Mr. Pendanski have a disagreement about?
11. How does the digging change after X-Ray finds something in his hole?
12. How does Zigzag think the Warden knows the boys' names?
13. What does Stanley know that the Warden doesn't?
14. What is Stanley careful of when he dumps the wheelbarrows?
15. What does Stanley laugh at that Zero doesn't get?

Name _____ Date _____

Holes
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Chapters 11-16
Vocabulary

metallic _____

engraved _____

etch _____

turquoise _____

authority _____

remainder _____

excavate _____

compound _____

paranoid _____

excess _____

sprawled _____

presumably _____

evict _____

odor _____

Writing

1. If you were in Stanley 's place, would you have given t he tube to X-Ray? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think Stanley doesn't tell his mother what camp is really like?
3. Stanley tries to think of a way to tell the Warden where the tube really came from. What would you do in his place?

Holes
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Chapters 17-22
Reading Comprehension

1. How does the Warden's mood change as time passes and nothing is found?
2. How is Stanley hurt?
3. What does Zigzag insist that Stanley take care of?
4. What does Zero ask of Stanley?
5. How has Stanley toughened at Camp Green Lake?
6. How did Magnet get his nickname?
7. What happens when Zigzag throws the bag of sunflower seeds at Stanley?
8. How does Stanley explain himself to Mr. Sir?
9. What things does Stanley appreciate despite knowing he's going to be punished?
10. What is the secret ingredient in the Warden's nail polish?
11. How does the Warden deal with Mr. Sir's complaint?
12. How did Stanley's great-grandfather claim to have survived in the desert?
13. What surprise is waiting for Stanley at his hole?
14. How does Stanley pay back Zero for his help?
15. What deal do they work out?

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Holes
by Louis Sachar
Chapters 17-22
Vocabulary

supposedly _____

callused _____

penetrating _____

condemned _____

venom _____

recede _____

shrill _____

writhe _____

haze _____

refuge _____

coiled _____

deposit _____

defiance _____

astonishment _____

Writing

1. In what ways has Stanley toughened since coming to Camp Green Lake? How has he softened up?
2. Why do you think Stanley claims to have stolen the sunflower seeds?
3. Why do you think the Warden doesn't side with Mr. Sir?

Holes
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Chapters 23-28
Reading Comprehension

1. Why was Miss Katherine Barlow awarded a special prize each year?
2. How did Trout Walker get his nickname?
3. What does Trout want that he can't get?
4. What does Mr. Sir do to the boy who asks him about his swollen face?
5. What does Mr. Sir do when it's Stanley's turn for water?
6. How does Sam help sick people?
7. What does Sam do in exchange for Miss Katherine's peaches?
8. Why don't the children show up for school?
9. Why is the town going to hang Sam?
10. When was the last time rain fell on Green Lake?
11. How do the other boys react to Zero digging part of Stanley's hole?
12. Why does Stanley pour out his full canteen?
13. Why is Zero's real name significant?
14. What do the Walkers want from Kate when she comes back to Green Lake?
15. How does Kate die?

Name _____ Date _____

Holes
by Louis Sachar
Chapters 23-28
Vocabulary

incurable _____

afflict _____

spew _____

grotesque _____

parched _____

remedy _____

concoction _____

quivering _____

sparingly _____

vile _____

rummage _____

drought _____

lapped _____

Writing

1. Why does Miss Katherine become an outlaw? What might you have done in her place?
2. Sam is killed because he did something a black man was not supposed to do. In what ways does race affect the boys at the camp?
3. What might Kate think of Camp Green Lake?

Name _____ Date _____

Holes
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Chapters 29-33
Reading Comprehension

1. What does the lightning reveal to Stanley?
2. On Zigzag's birthday, how long has Stanley been at Camp and how many holes has he dug?
3. Why does Zigzag try to get Stanley to take his cookie?
4. What does Mr. Pendanski tell Stanley to do?
5. Why won't the Warden let Stanley continue to teach Zero?
6. What does Zero do when Mr. Pendanski says he's too stupid to learn to read?
7. Why doesn't Stanley expect help in digging Zero's hole?
8. Where does Stanley hope that Zero has gone?
9. What does the Warden decide to do about Zero?
10. What worries Stanley most about Zero being gone?
11. How does Twitch help Stanley escape?
12. What stops the truck?
13. How long does Stanley plan to walk?
14. How much water does he have?
15. How are the more distant holes different from the ones by the compound?

Name _____ Date _____

Holes
by Louis Sachar
Chapters 29-33
Vocabulary

delirious _____

dab _____

flurry _____

pry _____

spigot _____

ward _____

deftly _____

ignition _____

systematic _____

encounter _____

Writing

1. Why do you think Zigzag has chosen Stanley to bully? If you were in Stanley's position, how would you respond?
2. Why do you think Zero hits Mr. Pendanski and runs?
3. What could Stanley have done differently in running after Zero?

Holes
by Louis Sachar
Chapters 34-39
Reading Comprehension

1. What does the pool of water turn out to be?
2. What does the large object on the lake turn out to be?
3. Who did the boat once belong to?
4. What does Stanley find under the boat?
5. What is “sploosh”?
6. What is Stanley afraid was in the sploosh?
7. What scares Stanley the most about dying?
8. How does Zero help Stanley climb up the steep ledge?
9. How does Stanley know they're getting close to water?
10. How do the boys get rid of the swarm of gnats?
11. What does Stanley realize when he falls into the muddy ditch?
12. How does Stanley get water?
13. What does Stanley call the onion he gives Zero?
14. What covers the field around the Thumb?
15. What does Zero confess to Stanley?

Name _____ Date _____

Holes
by Louis Sachar
Chapters 34-39
Vocabulary

mirage _____

grimly _____

sheepish _____

ventilation _____

protruding _____

slab _____

altitude _____

weary _____

frail _____

foul _____

precipice _____

despair _____

gully _____

comprehend _____

Writing

1. Where do you think Stanley's strength comes from as he crosses the lake and climbs the mountain?
2. If you were in Stanley's place, what might keep you going?
3. Why do you think Zero waited so long to tell Stanley about the shoes?

Holes
by Louis Sachar
Chapters 40-45
Reading Comprehension

1. Why does Mrs. Tennyson run into the street in her nightgown and robe?
2. Why does Stanley go back down the mountain for the shovel?
3. Why does Stanley think he must have passed the shovel without noticing it?
4. Why would Zero find someone to pretend to be his mother at the shelter?
5. Why did Zero take the sneakers from the shelter?
6. What might have happened if Zero hadn't gotten rid of the sneakers?
7. How does Stanley feel about having been sent to Camp Green Lake?
8. Why does Stanley want to dig one more hole?
9. What is the unspoken challenge between Stanley and Zero?
10. What happened to Zero's mother?
11. Why do the boys hide in the holes?
12. Why is Zero the one to sneak into the compound for food and water?
13. What does Stanley find in his old hole?
14. Who finds Stanley and Zero?
15. What is in the hole with Stanley?

Name _____ Date _____

Holes
by Louis Sachar
Chapters 40-45
Vocabulary

intertwined _____

contrite _____

feebly _____

indentation _____

fugitive _____

inexplicable _____

indistinct _____

distinctive _____

adjacent _____

sliver _____

swig _____

precarious _____

illuminated _____

Writing

1. Why do you think Stanley is so happy living in the shadow of the Thumb?
2. In what ways has Stanley changed since his arrest?
3. Do you think that it was Stanley and Zero 's destiny that brought them together? Why or why not?

Name _____ Date _____

Holes
by Louis Sachar
Chapters 46-50
Reading Comprehension

1. What happens to the lizard that jumps at Mr. Pendanski?
2. What does the Warden plan on telling Stanley's family?
3. What would have happened to Stanley if he'd been at camp instead of going after Zero?
4. What does Zero figure out while spending the night in the hole?
5. What does the Warden tell Stanley's attorney about how the boys got in the lizards' nest?
6. How does Zero know to whom the suitcase really belongs?
7. Why won't Stanley leave with his lawyer?
8. What does Squid ask Stanley to do?
9. Why does Ms. Morengo take Zero with her?
10. Why didn't the lizards bite Stanley and Zero?
11. How did Ms. Morengo prove Stanley's innocence?
12. What has Stanley's father invented?
13. What happened to Camp Green Lake after the Attorney General closed it?
14. What was in the suitcase?
15. What does Stanley's father name his invention, and who promotes it?

Name _____ Date _____

Holes
by Louis Sachar
Chapters 46-50
Vocabulary

flinch _____

initiate _____

severely _____

rigid _____

strenuous _____

blotchy _____

momentarily _____

trilling _____

authenticated _____

legitimate _____

ranting _____

detainee _____

jurisdiction _____

pursuant _____

Writing

1. Do you believe that there was a curse on Stanley's family? Why or why not? Provide examples.
2. Which was your favorite character, and why?
3. The author tells the reader, "You will have to fill in the holes yourself." What do you think he means by this, and what "holes" are left in the story for you?

Holes by Louis Sachar

Answers

Chapters 1-5

1. It dried up.
2. The Warden.
3. You die.
4. Because they have no choice.
5. Prison or Camp Green Lake.
6. Camp Fun and Games.
7. By using his weight to teach ratios.
8. His no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather.
9. It's spelled the same forward and backward.
10. Because he quit smoking.
11. Two sets of clothes, a towel, sneakers, a cap, and a canteen.
12. It has the only water for a hundred miles.
13. Barf Bag; he's in the hospital and isn't coming back.
14. Mom.
15. He prefers the names that society will recognize them by when they become useful members of society.

Chapters 6-10

1. For stealing sneakers.
2. They belonged to Clyde Livingston and were going to be auctioned for charity.
3. They fell out of the sky and hit him on the head.
4. Find something that the Warden thinks is interesting.
5. To carry it to the top of the mountain, let it drink from the stream that runs uphill, and sing to it.
6. Carry her up the mountain after the pig is grown.
7. Gives her the pig and leaves.
8. He forgets to carry Madame Zeroni up the mountain.
9. Spits in it.
10. Eleven.
11. The lake.
12. By tripping over the Lump's leg.
13. That he's made friends and spent the day learning to swim.
14. Stanley.
15. A fish fossil.

Chapters 11-16

1. Because he's been there almost a year and hasn't found anything yet.
2. It's Pig Latin for Rex.
3. He thinks it's more important for X-Ray to like him than to get a day off.
4. What they want to do with their lives.
5. Stanley.
6. All of them.
7. A gold colored tube with initials on the end.
8. That he wait till the next day to show Mr. Pendanski the tube, so he gets more time off.
9. He snaps at Stanley and won't talk to him.
10. Refilling the canteens.
11. Two boys work on each hole and go through the dirt twice.
12. By hiding cameras and microphones all over the compound.
13. Which hole the tube was really found in.
14. Not to dump them where he found the tube.
15. His mother's joke about the old woman who lived in the shoe.

Holes by Louis Sachar

Chapters 17-22

1. She becomes impatient and stops letting the boys have extra water.
2. Zigzag hits him with his shovel.
3. The dirt that dropped off Stanley's shovel.
4. To teach him to read.
5. His muscles, hands, and heart.
6. His fingers are like magnets – he steals things.
7. The seeds spill.
8. He says he stole them and ate them all himself.
9. Sitting in the truck, the breeze, and shade.
10. Rattlesnake venom.
11. She hits him with wet nail polish on her hand.
12. He found refuge on God's thumb.
13. His hole is nearly finished.
14. By teaching him to read.
15. Zero will dig Stanley's hole for an hour, and Stanley will teach him to read.

Chapters 23-28

1. For her canned spiced peaches.
2. Because his feet smell like a couple of dead fish.
3. Miss Katherine.
4. He chokes him until he says Mr. Sir's face looks fine.
5. Pours the water on the ground instead of into his canteen.
6. Sells them onions and onion ointments.
7. Fixes up the schoolhouse.
8. Sam was seen kissing Miss Katherine.
9. For kissing a white woman.
10. The day before Sam was killed.
11. They mock Stanley for getting help and needing to rest in order to teach Zero.
12. He's not sure what Mr. Sir put in it.
13. His last name is Zeroni, like Madame Zeroni who helped Stanley's great-great-grandfather.
14. Her loot from robbing banks.
15. A lizard bites her.

Chapters 29-33

1. A rock formation that looks like a thumb.
2. Forty-six days and forty-four holes.
3. He's bullying him about accepting Zero's help.
4. Hit Zigzag.
5. It leads to trouble.
6. Hits him with his shovel and walks out of the compound.
7. Because Zero helped him, not the others.
8. To God's thumb.
9. Erase any record that he was at Camp Green Lake.
10. That he might still be alive.
11. Tells him to put the truck in gear.
12. A hole.
13. Until he's too weak to go any farther, then turn around and go back.
14. None.
15. They aren't in orderly rows.

Holes by Louis Sachar

Chapters 34-39

1. A mirage.
2. A boat.
3. Sam.
4. Zero.
5. Miss Katherine's canned peaches.
6. Bacteria.
7. His parents not knowing what happened to him.
8. By holding the shovel for Stanley to pull himself up with.
9. There are weeds and gnats.
10. They are more interested in what Zero just threw up.
11. You need water to make mud, so water must be nearby.
12. By digging a hole and letting water collect in it.
13. A hot fudge sundae.
14. White flowers.
15. That he stole Clyde Livingston's shoes from the shelter.

Chapters 40-45

1. To thank Sam for helping her daughter get well.
2. So he can dig a larger water hole.
3. Because he can't believe he carried Zero that far up the mountain.
4. So that no one would ask questions and make him a ward of the state.
5. He needed shoes and thought it would be better to take an old pair than a new ones.
6. Neither boy would have been sent to Camp Green Lake.
7. That it was destiny.
8. To find Kate's treasure.
9. That neither will be the first to admit to thirst.
10. She left him in the park and never came back; he doesn't know.
11. To wait until everyone has gone to sleep to start digging.
12. He can walk more quietly than Stanley.
13. A suitcase.
14. The Warden, Mr. Sir, and Mr. Pendanski.
15. Lizards.

Chapters 46-50

1. Mr. Sir shoots it.
2. That Stanley tried to run away and fell into the hole, where the lizards got him.
3. He would have been released.
4. That Stanley's last name is his first name spelled backwards.
5. That they stole her suitcase and fell in the hole.
6. The suitcase has "Stanley Yelnats" written on it.
7. He won't leave without Zero.
8. Call his mother and tell her he's sorry.
9. Because the Warden can't find any files to prove that he belongs at the Camp.
10. They don't like onion blood.
11. By proving that he was seen at school at the time of the theft.
12. A product that eliminates foot odor.
13. It became a Girl Scout camp.
14. Poor quality jewels and valuable stock certificates, deeds, and promissory notes.
15. Sploosh; Clyde Livingston.